

MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
JANUARY 14, 2013 – 4:30 P.M.
TOWN HALL ANNEX – COMMUNITY ROOM 1

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Syma Ebbin, Len Mediavilla, Rita Schmidt, Luke Singh, Bob Quevreaux, Genevieve Cerf, Michael Murphy, Mark Oefinger
Excused: Zell Steever, Gary Schneider
Staff: Davis

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of meeting of September 24, 2012

MOTION: To approve the minutes of September 24, 2012 as amended.

Motion made by Schmidt, seconded by Singh. Motion passed unanimously.

III. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

1. Distribution of Biographies

Each member re-introduced himself and distributed their individual biographies.

IV. PRESENTATION

Michael Murphy told the committee that Public Works Director Gary Schneider had informed him that the speaker scheduled for today's meeting, Amy McDonough from Borrego Solar, has been rescheduled to the next meeting on February 11th.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Review of Town Council Resolution of Committee Responsibilities and Membership

The committee briefly reviewed the resolution adopted by the Town Council on December 18, 2012, which affirmed the EECC as a permanent standing committee, and clarified the membership and requirements, terms, duties and staffing.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Distribution of Energy Action Plan for Groton

The consultant for the Energy Action Plan gave a presentation at the Committee of Chairs meeting on October 18th. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation was distributed. The committee discussed Con Serve, and possibly having them on the agenda for the March meeting, to advise the committee on opportunities for developing and funding projects, and implementing the Plan.

2. 2013 EECC Meeting Schedule

MOTION: To adopt the 2013 meeting schedule as presented.

Motion made by Ebbin, seconded by Singh, so voted unanimously.

VII. REPORT OF STAFF

Michael Murphy said that Rick Norris and Matt Davis will be points of contact with regard to assistance for this committee by OPDS. The internal Energy Management Committee, endorsed in the Energy Action Plan (consisting of representatives from the Public Works, Purchasing, Schools and OPDS) met recently to review the consultant's recommendations. Staff will send the consultant's report to committee members as soon as it is finalized by OPDS.

The committee discussed the use of solar panels on Town buildings and the possibility of having a consultant to do a presentation for the committee with regard to solar power. Mark Oefinger said there was a local group looking for large commercial/industrial business rooftops. Staff will see if they can develop more information on that for the next meeting. A brief discussion ensued on storm restoration and Groton Utilities' response.

Staff updated the committee on the current status of the POCD Steering Committee. They are currently compiling inventories; as they move in to sustainability related policy, the interactions with the EECC would be more relevant.

Lighting projects, and the possibility of the Town reinvesting some savings from lighting projects into more schools, were reviewed. Genevieve Cerf spoke about her observation of the abundance of solar power in Switzerland. Ms. Schmidt requested that Ms. Cerf find out how Switzerland accomplishes all their solar incentives.

Mark Oefinger thanked Pfizer, Electric Boat and Groton Utilities for participating in the Committee, and is looking forward to their contributions, especially regarding their experiences and practices. The committee briefly discussed building energy audits.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Motion made by Cerf, seconded by Ebbin. Motion passed unanimously.

Prepared by Debra Gilot, Office Assistant III